



Shared Priorities for Building a Better Great Lakes Basin: Equitable Restoration, Revitalization, Resilience

February 2021

Restoring and protecting the Great Lakes is an enduring, bipartisan priority for the nation and for Great Lakes basin communities. Our organizations support these priorities to accelerate progress, foster equity, build resilience, and ensure the Great Lakes are an environmental treasure, community asset, economic engine, and innovation hub.

Maintain bipartisan support for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative

- Appropriate no less than \$375 million for the GLRI in FY 2022.
- Ensure key federal programs have the capacity to support Great Lakes restoration work.

Invest in drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure

- Prioritize projects and programs in underserved communities that advance equitable access to affordable, clean, safe drinking water.
- Increase funding from FY 2021 levels for the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Funds and the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act program.
- Improve monitoring and cleanup of PFAS contamination at military bases, airports, and other hot spots, and establish a federal drinking water standard for PFAS.
- Promote green infrastructure to address stormwater runoff and achieve water quality, habitat, and resiliency benefits from infrastructure investments.

Ensure the Great Lakes economy, environment, and communities are resilient to the impacts of a changing climate

- Fund the Army Corps of Engineers' Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study, authorized in 2018 and 2020, to identify ways to safeguard coastal communities from erosion, flooding, and other impacts from changing lake levels.
- Increase funding for federal programs that help states, tribes, and local communities safeguard coastal resources and mitigate future damage from erosion, flooding, and severe storm events. Ensure federal programs have flexibility to address emergent issues and provide a set-aside to address lake level variability that is unique to the Great Lakes.
- Fund the Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation (STORM) Act, which authorizes grants to states to establish revolving loan funds for projects to reduce natural disaster risks.
- Invest in research and development, commercialization, and growth of vital technology sectors, especially water tech, and fund state, tribal, and local talent development initiatives that bolster the Great Lakes innovation economy.

Strengthen Great Lakes ports and the maritime transportation system

- Maintain and upgrade commercial ports, locks and other navigation infrastructure and recreational harbors, including funding for a new Soo lock and adequate icebreaking capacity using ecologically protective and sustainable measures.

Support federal programs to address harmful algal blooms (HABs)

- Fully fund the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and other Farm Bill conservation programs to target resources to the Great Lakes basin and support farmers working to improve water quality and protect wildlife habitat.
- Develop and implement a comprehensive HABs research and pilot project program, in collaboration with the states, tribes, and local communities, to identify workable solutions to HABs.

Protect the Great Lakes basin from Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species

- Fully fund the Asian Carp Action Plan and other programs to prevent and control AIS, including the Great Lakes Fishery Commission's sea lamprey control program and monitoring and eradication of grass carp. Fund the pre-construction engineering and design (PED) for a project at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam to help keep Asian carp and other aquatic invasive species from entering the Great Lakes.
- Direct the Army Corps of Engineers to work with Illinois and the other Great Lakes states and stakeholders to effectively implement a project at the Brandon Road Lock and Dam, while complying with all applicable state regulations.



Great Lakes Fishery Commission



Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority



GREAT LAKES METRO CHAMBERS COALITION

